

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

In response to the Office Action dated June 13, 2005, claims 1 and 6 are amended, and claims 3, 4, 8 and 15-19 are canceled. Claims 1, 2, 5-7 and 9-14 are now active in this application. No new matter has been added.

REJECTION OF CLAIMS UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 112, SECOND PARAGRAPH

Claims 15-19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. In support of this position, the Examiner maintains that, although the claims appear to be method claims, they do not include any positively recited method steps.

To expedite prosecution, claims 15-19 are cancelled.

REJECTION OF CLAIMS UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 102 AND § 103

I. Claims 1-3 and 5-7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Adler et al. (USPN 5,511,477)

Claims 4, 8-10, 12-15 and 17-19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Adler et al. in view of Brand et al. (EP0782106).

Claims 11 and 16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Adler et al. in view of Brand et al., as applied to claims 4, 8-10, 12-15 and 17-19, and further in view of Sakamoto (USPN 6,138,566).

II. The rejections are moot as to cancelled claims 15-19 and respectfully traversed as to claims 4, 8 and 10.

In Alder et al., a coating material is NOT sprayed to a print, such as a printed sheet. In Alder et al., a printing plate itself is made. That is, in Alder et al., ink is applied by an inkjet *to a blank printing plate substrate in order to make an image itself*. The coating material is not applied in order to protect the printed image, but to be used in making the image itself. The Examiner's understanding described in section #6 of the Office Action with respect to "spraying the coating material from droplet spray nozzles" in order to apply a coating material to a surface of a print is not correct. On the other hand, the present invention discloses that a coating material is applied to a surface of the printed print.

As applying ink to a surface of a blank printing plate substrate which is then used to make an image is different from applying a coating material to a surface of a printed print, the present invention is clearly different from Alder et al.

Brand et al. disclose a technique to make a postage stamp using an inkjet. In Brand et al., one printing is divided into plural printings and overprinted. That is, the coating material is not applied in order to protect the printed image. The Examiner's understanding described in section # 6 of the Office Action with respect to; "to apply the coating material", is not correct. Thus, the technique of the present invention is clearly different from Brand et al. also.

III. To expedite prosecution, claim 1 is amended to include the limitations of claims 3 and 4, now cancelled, claim 5 is amended to depend from amended claim 1, claim 6 is amended to include the limitations of claim 8, now cancelled, and claim 9 is amended to depend from amended claim 6. Claim 10 already recites the features included in amended claim 6.

Thus, as neither Adler et al. nor Brand et al. disclose or suggest the features now recited in amended independent claims 1 and 6, amended independent claims 1 and 6 are patentable over Adler et al. and Brand et al., as are dependent claims 2, 5, 7, 9 and 11-14. Consequently, the allowance of claims 1, 2, 5, 6, 7 and 9-14, as amended, is respectfully solicited.

CONCLUSION

Accordingly, it is urged that the application, as now amended, is in condition for allowance, an indication of which is respectfully solicited. If there are any outstanding issues that might be resolved by an interview or an Examiner's amendment, Examiner is requested to call Applicants' attorney at the telephone number shown below.

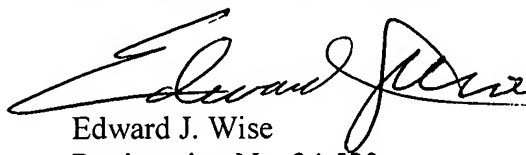
Accordingly, it is urged that the application, as now amended, overcomes the rejection of record and is in condition for allowance. Entry of the amendment and favorable reconsideration of this application, as amended, are respectfully requested. If there are any outstanding issues that might be resolved by an interview or an Examiner's amendment, Examiner is requested to call Applicants' attorney at the telephone number shown below.

Application No.: 10/814,254

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 500417 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

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